OPINION 1463

De Lacépède, 1788–1789, *Histoire Naturelle des Serpens* and later editions: rejected as a non-binominal work

Ruling

(1) It is hereby ruled that Lacépède (1788–1789), *Histoire Naturelle des Serpens*, and its subsequent editions (1790, 1799a, 1799b, 1825, 1834, 1836) are unavailable works, and that no name acquires the status of availability by reason of having been published in any of them.

(2) Under the plenary powers:

(a) the following names are hereby suppressed for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy:

(i) *oularsawa* Bonnaterre, 1790, as published in the binomen *Coluber oularsawa*;

(ii) *oryzivorus* Suckow, 1798, as published in the binomen *Coluber oryzivorus*;

(b) it is hereby ruled that the specific name *piscivorus* Lacépède, 1788–1789, as published in the binomen *Crotalus piscivorus*, is an available name, notwithstanding that it was published in an unavailable work;

(c) the specific name *triangulum* Lacépède, 1788–1789, as published in the binomen *Coluber triangulum*, is hereby exempted from the ruling in (1) above, having already been placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology by Opinion 804;

(3) The name *Langaha* Bonnaterre, 1790 (gender: feminine), type species by monotypy, *Langaha madagascariensis* Bonnaterre, 1790 is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology;

(4) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:

(a) *madagascariensis* Bonnaterre, 1790, as published in the binomen *Langaha madagascariensis*, (specific name of the type species of *Langaha* Bonnaterre, 1790);

(b) *piscivorus* Lacépède, 1788–1789, as published in the binomen *Crotalus piscivorus*, and as conserved in (2) (b) above;

(c) *reticulata* Schneider, 1801, as published in the binomen *Boa reticulata*, oldest available synonym of *Coluber oularsawa* Bonnaterre, 1790, and of *Coluber oryzivorus* Suckow, 1798, both suppressed in (2) (a) above;

(5) the following names are hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology;

(a) *oularsawa* Bonnaterre, 1790, as published in the binomen *Coluber oularsawa*, and as suppressed in (2) (a) (i) above;

(b) *oryzivorus* Suckow, 1798, as published in the binomen *Coluber oryzivorus*, and as suppressed in (2) (a) (ii) above.

(6) The following are hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Works in Zoology:

The work by De Lacépède, 1788–1789, *Histoire Naturelle des Serpens* and its subsequent editions of 1790, 1799a, 1799b, 1825, 1834, 1836, as ruled unavailable in (1) above, with an endorsement that no name acquires the status of availability by reason of having been published in any of them (except as specified in (2) (b) and (c) above.

History of Case 1985

An application for the rejection of Lacépède, 1788–1789 *Histoire naturelle des Serpens* and its later editions was first received from Dr L. D. Brongersma (*Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden*) in November 1971. It was published BZN **29**: 44–61 (May 1972). Due to the complexity of the case and absence of any detailed comments, it was held in abeyance. In 1980 Professor J. Savage (then of the *University of Southern California, Los Angeles*) submitted a comment; this was published in BZN **38**: 8–9. No further progress was made until 1984 when the case was analysed by Professor L. B. Holthuis (*Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden*). It was subsequently reformulated by the then Secretary, Mr R. V. Melville, and published in BZN **43**: 80–83 (April 1986). Notice of the case was given in the same part of the *Bulletin* as well as to twelve general and five specialist serials. A supportive comment was received from Professor H. M. Smith (*University of Colorado, Boulder, U.S.A.*) and published in BZN **43**: 228.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 March 1987 the members of the Commission were invited to vote for or against the proposals set out in BZN **43**: 82–83. At the close of the voting period on 1 June 1987 the state of the voting was as follows:

Affirmative votes—23: Alvarado, Bayer, Cocks, Cogger, Corliss, Gruchy, Hahn, Halvorsen, Heppell, Holthuis, Kabata, Kraus, Lehtinen, Melville, Mroczkowski, Ride, Savage, Schuster, Starobogatov, Thompson, Trjapitzin, Uéno, Willink

Negative votes—1: Dupuis.

No vote was returned by Bernardi.

Voting against, Dupuis said he had expressed his strong objection to the suppression of classical works such as Lacépède (1789) as long ago as 1975 (see BZN **33**: 17).

Original references

The following are the original references to the names and works placed on Official Lists and Official Indexes by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

Lacépède, De, 1788–89, *Histoire Naturelle des Serpens,* **2** (of: *Histoire Naturelle des Quadrupèdes Ovipares et des Serpens*) 9 + 20 + 144 + 527 pp. Hotel de Thou, Paris.

Lacépède, De, 1790, *Histoire Naturelle des Serpens,* **3** (of: *Histoire Naturelle des Quadrupèdes Ovipares et des Serpens*) 24 + 432 pp; **4,** 8 + 408 pp. Hotel de Thou, Paris.

Lacépède, De, 1799a, *Histoire Naturelle des Serpens,* Nouvelle edition, **2,** 14 + 280 pp. A. Blusse & Fils, Dordrecht.

Lacépède, De, 1799b (= 1803), *Histoire Naturelle des Quadrupèdes Ovipares et des Serpents,* **3:** 347; **4:** 386. P. & F. Didcot, Paris.

Lacépède, De, 1825, *Histoire Naturelle des Quadrupèdes Ovipares, Serpens, Poissons et Cétacés, pour faire suite aux Oeuvres de Buffon,* nouvelle edition, **1,** (4) + 620 pp. A. Eymerey, Paris.

Lacépède, De, 1834, *Oeuvres du Comte de Lacépède, comprenant l'Histoire Naturelle des Quadrupèdes Ovipares, des Serpens, des Poissons et des Cétacés, avec la synonymie des auteurs modernes les plus célèbres.* Nouvelle Edition, avec planches coloriées, dirigée par A. M. Constant Duméril, **2,** Quadrupèdes Ovipares-Serpents, 440 pp. Th. Lejeaune, Bruxelles.

Lacépède, De, 1836, *Oeuvres du Comte de Lacépède, contenant* (sic) *l'Histoire Naturelle des Quadrupèdes Ovipares, des Poissons et des Cétacés,* **1,** 468 pp. Société Bibliophile, Paris.

Langha Bonnaterre, 1790, Ophiologie, in *Tableau Encyclopédique et Méthodique des Trois Règnes de la Nature,* p. 71.

madagascariensis, Langaha, Bonnaterre, 1790, Ophiologie, in *Tableau Encyclopédique et Méthodique des Trois Règnes de la Nature,* p. 71.

oryzivorus, Coluber, Suckow, 1798, *Anfangsgrunde der theoretischen und angewandten Naturgeschichte der Thiere, 3, von den Amphibien,* p. 245.

oularsawa, Coluber, Bonnaterre, 1790, Ophiologie, in *Tableau Encylopédique et Méthodique des Trois Règnes de la Nature,* p. 26.

piscivorus, Crotalus, De Lacépède, 1788–1789, *Histoire Naturelle des Serpens,* p. 130.

reticulata, Boa, Schneider, 1801, *Historiae Amphibiorum Naturalis et Literariae,* vol. 2, p. 264.